



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009

No. 31

## House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Florida).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 23, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALCEE L. HASTINGS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

We praise You and we bless You Lord God for another day, another week, another opportunity to make a personal difference in this world, to serve the people of this Nation by serving in the 111th Congress, and give You glory in all our words and deeds.

We pray and work for social and financial security as this Nation and the entire world is faced with economic crisis.

Lord, stir creative thinking and greater collaboration in this Chamber that government may prove to be an agent of change and provide leadership in the world community.

By Your grace and power, turn this time of anxiety into an era of peace, where people become more disciplined and responsible themselves and more caring for their neighbors and the least fortunate in the world.

"Love conquers all." This we believe, now and forever.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 13, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 13, 2009, at 11:25 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to the conference report accompanying the bill H.R. 1.

That the Senate passed S. 234.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 35.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 47.

Appointments:  
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki)  
Senate National Security Working Group  
With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
*Clerk of the House.*

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Friday, February 13, 2009:

H.R. 1, making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

### BANKRUPTCY FIELD

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ballparks across America are back in swing and only days until opening day at the taxpayers' new park in New York, Citi Field. The average cost for a family of four to see a game is \$200. Wonder what the average cost for an office and executive secretary for former big shots at Citigroup in Manhattan costs? Well, it's not peanuts.

According to news reports, our struggling friends at Citigroup have plenty enough to plaster their name on a new ballpark and keep high dollar offices and secretaries for ex CEOs. The coach at Citigroup is making cuts to the roster at every other position, but it seems the luxury suite won't be traded.

Households across our country are prioritizing spending, doing without to make ends meet, and they're not getting any bailout money from the Federal Government.

Citigroup is striking out when it comes to wise usage of taxpayer money. Citigroup should not spend taxpayer money on baseball parks and elaborate offices for former Citigroup players. If Citigroup goes broke, they shouldn't be coming looking for more taxpayer money. If they go bankrupt,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1609